

The Mini Coupe JCW

Just so easy to mistake the Mini Coupe John Cooper Works as an out and out performance car with its race bred 211bhp engine.

There is no doubt it has a lot of performance from beneath its modest bonnet, but as I discovered it can be a very practical set of wheels.



The boot is deceiving and when you open the boot lid there is ample space, even a set of golf clubs and an electric golf buggy all fitted; mind you a tight squeeze, but they fitted.

I have to put my hand up and say that this car from the Mini stable was designed to deliver fun and enjoyable motoring and I suspect that it is a car which is aimed directly at the younger driver.

A lot of us grew up with the original Mini and in those easily days the Cooper and Cooper S were cars to aspire to. I rather ten to think that it is very much the same way with this version.

During the period I had it on test it certainly got a lot of looks with its bright red exterior colour, broad black go faster stripes and chunky dark alloys and when on the move its spoiler raised to show that it was on a mission.

Rest to 62mph comes up in 6.4 seconds and the top speed just falls shy of 150mph, so this is one small car that you have to respect and one that is not for the faint hearted.

Driving in town, Mini state around 32mpg, on a longer drive that can easily be increased; however the CO2 rating is quite high at 157g/km.

The 1.6 litre engine does deliver a very sporty note, especially when heavy application of the right foot is employed.

When it comes to handling this is where this member of the Mini family excels. It can be best described as kart-like, very reassuring as the speed increases and there is ample stopping power.

The body is rigid so this plays a major role in assisting in delivering very good





handling and to the ride, comes as no great surprise it is firm but not harsh.

Tyre choice is run flat and I know there are people who do not count themselves in the run flat tyre fan club. However it must be said, the reinforced sidewalls permit you to drive up to 90 miles at a maximum speed of 50mph.

There is a question of security, imagine a dark night and you get a flat tyre, especially with a lady driver it may not be safe to stop, yet these tyres allow you to travel on to a destination where it is safe to stop.

The level of standard equipment is high, leather sports steering wheel, sport button, anthracite headliner etc.

This two seater has the same switch and instrumentation layout as the rest of the Mini range and of course there is a range of options to enable you to make it your own very special Mini Coupe JCW.

Now to pricing, my test car had a number of options fitted and this brought the final tally to £28,385. The on the road price without options, £23,800.

Ian Lynas